

## Message Text

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PAGE 01     PRETOR 04081 131010Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
   INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
   SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 ISO-00 /084 W  
   -----021065 131025Z /21

P R 130933Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8420  
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
AMCONSUL DURBAN  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4081

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT RH  
SUBJ: SMITH OPENS ELECTION CAMPAIGN

REF: PRETORIA 3997

1. ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS FROM SALISBURY, IAN SMITH, ON AUGUST 11, OFFICIALLY OPENED HIS GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN WITH A PROMISE TO ARRANGE A MAJORITY RULE SETTLEMENT BY THE END OF THE YEAR. SMITH REPORTEDLY WARNED "IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO GO ON AND ON AS WE ARE NOW," AND THAT "MAJORITY RULE WAS NOT A TERRIBLE THING AND PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE AFRAID OF IT." THE RAND DAILY MAIL REPORTED THAT SMITH TOLD HIS AUDIENCES THAT HE WOULD FORM A BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT WITH LEADING BLACKS SOON AFTER THE AUGUST 31 ELECTION  
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AND WOULD THEN DRAW UP A SETTLEMENT CONSTITUTION TO GO TO A REFERENDUM BY CHRISTMAS.

2. COMMENT: SMITH HAS PLEDGED THAT HIS GOAL IS A BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, HE HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY INDICATED THAT HE WOULD FORM SUCH A GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ELECTIONS AND PRIOR TO DRAWING

UP THE NEW CONSTITUTION. UNTIL WE HAVE SEEN THE FULL  
TEXT OF SMITH'S REMARKS, WE CANNOT ASSUME THAT THE  
RAND DAILY MAIL ACCURATELY REFLECTED THE STATEMENT ON  
THIS SUBJECT. THE IDEA OF A REFERENDUM ON A NEW  
CONSTITUTION BY THE END OF THE YEAR IS CONSISTENT WITH  
THE TIMETABLE THAT SMITH HAS RECENTLY DISCUSSED.  
NELSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REFORM, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, POLITICAL CONCESSIONS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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